

Wisdom of *The Dialogue* of St. Catherine

Summary of Chapter 46. Those who are in right relationship with God have a foretaste of heaven now; those who are not, a foretaste of hell. God the Father says, “Just as all truth is gained by the light of faith, so falsehood and delusion are won through infidelity.” After Baptism, at the age of discernment, we are to exercise virtues to keep the light of faith, producing “fruit” for our neighbors. However, wretched people do the opposite. “Instead they give birth to dead virtues. They are dead because all their actions, being done in deadly sin and bereft of light of faith, are dead.” They are spiritually blind through their selfish love. “They do not know that of themselves they are nothing. They do not recognize the sins they have committed.”

“Because they know neither Me nor themselves, they do not hate their selfish sensuality. No, they even love it.” If they are doing good things for humanity, but are spiritually dead, God sometimes gives them a little more time on earth to convert, permits them to receive material goods, and raises up people to pray for them. However, “if they do not change their ways, they will end in eternal punishment.”

“But understand this: there will be terrifying times in the last days. People will be self-centered and lovers of money, proud, haughty, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, irreligious, callous, implacable, slanderous, licentious, brutal, hating what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, as they make a pretense of religion but deny its power. Reject them.” -2 Tim 3:1-5

Salvation Means Sanity

By Father George Rutler, NY

Who the “Wise Men” were is a recurring question for inventive debate, but the point is that these sophisticated scholars were from “a foreign country.”

Here in Manhattan, tourists can be annoying when they stop suddenly to look at a novel sight. But they also do us the favor of noticing what we take for granted. Those Magi from a foreign land pointed out that the locals had missed the greatest event in history. They also wisely distrusted King Herod (his heir Archelaus was even worse, as Saint Joseph knew), and so they ignored him. When Herod found out that a child had come into the world who threatened his complacency, he set out to destroy him, killing many innocents in the attempt.

Christians must always be tourists in this earthly realm, pointing out the wonders that others take for granted. That can be threatening to many. True Christians disturb the settled ways of a culture. People who succumb to the insanity of sin will accuse Christians of madness. That is how we get martyrs, as happened a couple of weeks ago in Nigeria when Muslims killed eleven Christians. Such hostility was an expression of the killers’ conviction that Jesus Christ brought madness into the world.

In a 1959 “Twilight Zone” television episode called “Eye of the Beholder,” some exceedingly ugly people unsuccessfully perform plastic surgery on a beautiful woman, thinking that she is the one who is ugly. In our decaying culture, there are those who think that history’s Perfect Man was ugly and that those who are like him should be crucified one way or another, usually by ridicule and censorship. The media and demagogic politicians do this as a habit.

In recent days, a woman in Britain gave birth, although she was bearded after hormonal treatments that made her appear as the man she had “transitioned” to be twelve years before. Her partner is “non-binary”—which means neither male nor female, and the “sperm donor” was a man who thinks he is a woman, while the obstetrician, according to vague reports, was either a man who claims to be a woman or a woman who claims to be a man.

Thus, our rattled culture poses a dilemma: either these people are mentally ill, or Christians are. And this is not confined to the esoteric. An Ivy League institution has just mailed forms to alumni, asking them to choose the descriptive pronoun they prefer. This gives new meaning to “institution.” And this is why sane voices increasingly are banned from speaking in such places, because the function of prophets is to point out that inmates are running the asylum.

Observant souls never take for granted the sanity Christ brought into the world. Salvation means sanity. “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints” (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Ways to Give Sight to the Blind and Let the Oppressed Go Free

“He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.”*

-Luke 4:16-19

After discovering within your family the patterns of sins, vices, spirits, or attitudes/strong emotions/dispositions, implement a program that has the following considerations:

1. Practice virtues that oppose the negative patterns. For example, pray the Act of Hope whenever you “hold on” to fear. Trust in the Lord and have confidence in Him. Depression→practice joy and acts of charity. Despair→practice hope/confidence. Fear of suffering→practice mortification (give things up such as entertainment) and replace it with doing something good for others. Practice a virtue for 30 days straight. Also, watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-TC1mFYzPQ> (“Family Virtues”; about 30 minutes) and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_jguGLEnJg (“Common Pitfalls for Catholic Parents”; about 30 minutes). Also, watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OL1P3ktjm80> (“Friends of the Cross”; about 48 minutes).

2. Fast (from food, entertainment, and cell phone usage).

3. Pray specifically for the patterns to go away. E.g., “Lord Jesus, please bind up criticism and passivity and complaining from my family and me, and drive them far away from us.”

4. Pray general prayers, such as the Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and/or the Divine Office.

5. Make reparation. Do extra prayers, Adoration, and have Masses said for the repairing of the damage (1) when the pattern came into the family line; (2) for the sins from other people in the family tree and its subsequent negative effects; and (3) for your own sins. E.g., perhaps your great grandfather was the first alcoholic in the family tree and alcoholism is prevalent. Pray for the repose of the soul of your great grandfather.

Pray that the Lord will repair the damage that has resulted from your sins and the sins of your family tree.

6. Pray for healing for your family members and yourself. E.g., Healing Mass, or Prayer for Inner Healing (ask for a copy of this).

7. Have a priest or deacon pray say certain prayers over each person in your family. A husband, the royal priest of his family, should bless his wife and children. Examples of blessings are on our website.

8. Ask your Guardian Angel and patron saints to intercede. Whatever the patterns, ask the saints who are “enemies” of these patterns to pray. E.g., St. Clare will pray for you against betrayal (perfidy), if this pattern is in your family line. St. Mother Teresa will pray against pride. Think about the life of various saints who can pray against vices.

9. Use sacramentals. E.g., use blessed salt in your cooking or at meals. Use holy water and bless yourself and your house.

10. Practice custody of the eyes, mind, and tongue. If you start thinking about something negative or sinful, catch yourself immediately and do something positive (prayer, spiritual reading). If you do not catch yourself immediately and practice virtue instead, you reinforce negative patterns. See 2 Cor 10:3-6 and Jas 3:1-10.

11. Go to Confession frequently and confess your sins, vices, and fears, and talk to the priest about defects (e.g., worry). You and your family should confess the kind of sin and the number of times it was committed. This will help your awareness level to improve and the practice of custody of the eyes, mind, and tongue. Recall: skipping Mass is very serious.

12. Get rid of any negative influences in your home (e.g., Harry Potter movies and books, other media and objects that do not build up the Kingdom of God or might be cursed. If you have questions, ask a priest).

13. Consider praying the *Auxilium Christianorum* prayer daily. Visit: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-umKmU8IuyHelNTN3FjdlZkNUE/view>

Last word: This information looks overwhelming. So slowly move into a plan of prayer and of works of mercy for your family. Gently move forward without “beating yourself up.” Try to live in the present moment.

Mission Appeal This Weekend at StA, StB (Sun.), OLS

Next weekend, we have our annual mission appeal. Fr. Emmanuel Osigwe will ask for a second collection for the poor diocese of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Make checks out to our churches; we will transfer the money.

Steubenville of the Rockies

Parents of teenagers, it is time to sign your high school child up for the annual Steubenville of the Rockies High School Conference. We highly recommend it and so do those who have gone in previous years.

-Who: Any student in high school this year or going into high school next year.

-What: Amazing gathering of 2,500 youth, with great speakers, musicians, and presenters. This conference will challenge Catholic youth to not just learn about the Holy Spirit, but to get to know Him as the living presence of God in our lives.

-When: June 19-21, 2020 (Friday - Sunday)

-Where: Crowne Plaza – Denver Intl Airport, Colorado

-How much: \$220 (includes \$50 deposit due at sign-up)

If you are interested in sending your child to this, we **need to know no later than Wednesday, January 15**. Please let your friends know about this also, in case they missed the announcement. We had 8 kids sign up last year; we hope for more this year.

Contact Fr. Peter at 970-364-0170

Daily Mass Changes/Cancelations This Week

-Monday, StA, 8:30 a.m. Communion Service

-Monday, OLS, 8 a.m. Mass with Divine Mercy

-Tuesday, no Mass at OLS

“So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodbye.”

The Archdiocese of Denver has assigned Fr. Michael to Guardian Angels Church in Mead. He begins there the first week of February. On February 3 Fr. Peter becomes the new pastor, as Fr. Michael departs.

US Air Force Academy Cadet Choir Singing

On Martin Luther King weekend (January 17-19), the cadets will sing on Saturday evening at St. Bernard (4 and 5:30 p.m.) and Sunday at St. Peter (10 a.m.).

Farewell Breakfast/Brunch Potluck for Fr. Michael

“On February 2nd, following the 9:30 mass at OLS, there will be a potluck to wish Fr. Michael a fond farewell and to express our gratitude for his selfless pastorate at Our Lady of the Snow for the past twelve years. During this time he has taught us much and enhanced our spiritual lives for the glory of God. We will miss him. Parishioners are welcome to bring potluck dishes to share. We wish Fr. Michael Godspeed and our very best wishes in his new assignment at Guardian Angels Church in Mead, CO.”

Farewell Receptions Also at:

-St. Anne, Saturday, February 1, after the 5 p.m. Mass

-St. Bernard, Sunday, February 2, after the 7 a.m. Mass
“Please join us for a farewell Coffee and Donuts for Father Michael.”

PRC Banquet, Sunday, February 16

-Young Life ~ Crooked Creek Camp (Fraser), 5 p.m.

-Free Admission. Pre-registration required

-Registration: 970-887-317, or: office@prcgrand.org

-Fr. Michael will be at the banquet to support the PRC and say goodbye to Grand and Jackson Counties

Calendar of Events

-**Jan 18-19 (Sat-Sun)**. USAFA cadets sing:

Sat: StB at 4 and 5:30 p.m. and StP at 10 am

-**Feb 16 (Sun)**. PRC Banquet at Young Life Camp

Mass Collections, January 4 – 5

St. Anne	\$ 873
St. Bernard	1606
Our Lady of the Snow	5765
St. Peter	575
St. Ignatius	<u>1060</u>
Total	\$ 9878

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

Sat—Manuel Salinas & John Paul Almeida

Sun—Daniele Arienzo & Hernaldo Rojas

Mon—Peter Brancale & Blaise Buches

Tue—Joseph Bui & Phuoc Joe Bui

Wed—Paticio Pucuji & Felipe Colombo

Thu—Sean Conroy & Deacon Christopher Considine

Fri—Increase in vocations to priesthood/religious life

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

-Sat, Jan 11, StA, 5 p.m., Bob and Lisa Gross

-Sat, Jan 11, StB, 4 p.m., +Ismael Esquivel

-Sat, Jan 11, StB, 5:30 p.m., People in our region/visitors

-Sun, Jan 12, StB, 7 a.m., Special Intention

-Sun, Jan 12, OLS, 9:30 a.m., +Linola Tetreault

Weekday Masses

-Mon, Jan 13, StA, 8:30 a.m., **Communion Service**

-**Mon, Jan 13, OLS, 8 a.m.**, +Guidona Robar

-Tue, **No Services**

-Wed, Jan 15, StB, 8:30 a.m., +Mary Jo Dougherty

-**Thu, Jan 16, OLS, 8:30 a.m.**, +Linola Tetreault

-**Fri, Jan 17, OLS, 8:30 a.m.**, Special Intention

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

KEY: StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)

-Sun, Jan 12, StP, 10 a.m., Larry and Janice Gross

-Sun, Jan 12, StI, 1 p.m., People in our region/visitors